

UNCANNY X-MEN

ISSUE 492



RATED T+



\$2.99 US \$3.05 CAN

MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter two

BRUBAKER

MARVEL

TAN

MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER TWO

UNCANNY X-MEN



MARVEL
VARIANT
EDITION
492

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DIRECT EDITION

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After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion.

Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

Hope arrived in the form of a new mutant birth, the first since M-Day. Alerted by Cerebra, the X-Men raced to the scene of the birth, Cooperstown, Alaska, only to find the town ravaged.

The armies of the mutant-hating Purifiers had reached the town first and slaughtered every child in the vicinity, in hopes of killing the baby, which they view as the mutant Antichrist. The battle escalated when the Marauders, henchmen of Mr. Sinister, arrived to claim the baby as their own. It is unclear what happened next but the X-Men discovered evidence that the baby was taken alive, which means the future of mutantkind may now be in the hands of one of their deadliest foes – Mr. Sinister.

CHAPTER TWO:

Ed Brubaker: *Writer*

Billy Tan: *Penciler*

Danny Miki w/Allan Martinez: *Inkers*

Frank D'Armata: *Colorist*

Chris Eliopoulos: *Letterer*

Will Panzo: *Assistant Editor*

Nick Lowe: *Editor*

Axel Alonso: *Executive Editor*

Joe Quesada: *Editor in Chief*

Dan Buckley: *Publisher*

Cover A by: Finch, Miki, D'Armata

Cover B by: Silvestri, Weems, Firchow



--TRAGEDY LAST NIGHT IN COOPERSTOWN, ALASKA, WHEN A QUIET TOWN BECAME ANYTHING BUT. A NIGHT NO ONE IN ALASKA IS LIKELY TO EVER FORGET.



AT APPROXIMATELY 10:20 P.M. LAST NIGHT, LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE ROCKED BY A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS THAT SOME BELIEVED TO BE EARTHQUAKES...

BUT AS THEY FLED THEIR HOMES, THEY REALIZED IT WAS MUCH WORSE.



THEY HAD COME UNDER FIRE BY A PRIVATE ARMY, THE LIVES OF WHICH MOST GOVERNMENT MILITIAS RARELY ENCOUNTER.

THEIR MYSTERIOUS GOAL IN COOPERSTOWN?



THE COLD-BLOODED EXECUTION
OF NEARLY EVERY CHILD IN TOWN.
AN ALMOST BIBLICAL PUNISHMENT...
WITH NO DISCERNIBLE MOTIVE.



POLICE ARE WORKING
HARD TO VERIFY THE
IDENTITY OF THESE
ATTACKERS... AS THE BODIES
OF SEVERAL WERE FOUND
ON THE SCENE.

THOUGH IT IS
UNCLEAR AT THIS
POINT WHO, IN
FACT, KILLED THEM.



SEVERAL
LOCALS HAVE
DESCRIBED A FIGHT
BETWEEN TWO
FORCES...

...WHILE OTHERS
CLAIM A GROUP OF
SUPER HEROES ARRIVED
IN THE AFTERMATH
OF THE BATTLE TO
HELP THEM GET
TO SAFETY.

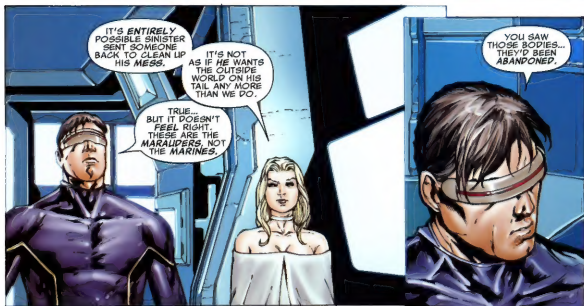
BUT AT THIS
TIME, THE TRUTH
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
IN COOPERSTOWN
LAST NIGHT REMAINS
A MYSTERY.



--REMAINS
A MYSTERY.

THEY DIDN'T
FIND THE BODIES
OF THOSE TWO
MARAUDERS AT
THE SCENE...

OR
ARE THEY
COVERING
IT UP?



IT'S ENTIRELY
POSSIBLE SINISTER
SENT SOMEONE
BACK TO CLEAN UP
HIS MESS.

IT'S NOT
AS IF HE WANTS
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD ON HIS
TAIL ANY MORE
THAN WE DO.

TRUE...
BUT IT DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT.
THESE ARE THE
MARAUDERS, NOT
THE MARINES.

YOU SAW
THOSE BODIES...
THEY'D BEEN
ABANDONED.



LET'S JUST
BE CONTENT THIS
DISASTER ISN'T BEING
LAID AT OUR FEET
FOR THE MOMENT,
SCOTT...

...AND
WORRY
ABOUT WHY
LATER.

GOOD POINT.
DID YOU
MAKE THAT
CALL?

OF COURSE.
NEITHER OF
THEM WERE HAPPY
ABOUT IT, BUT
THEY'LL BE HERE
SHORTLY.

GOOD. WE
NEED TO MOVE
FAST IF WE'RE
GOING TO RECOVER
THIS CHILD...





ISN'T IT?
AREN'T YOU THE
MAN WHO LEFT MY
BROTHER IN OUTER
SPACE LAST
MONTH?

THE MAN WHO LIED
ABOUT THE DANGER
ROOM, AND KRAKOA?
WHO STOOD BY
WHILE MY FATHER
WAS KILLED?



THAT'S
NOT HOW IT
HAPPENED,
AND YOU
KNOW IT.

AND I'M
ALSO THE MAN
WHO TRAINED ALL
OF YOU, AND WHO
KNOWS MORE ABOUT
NEW MUTANTS
THAN ANYONE ON
THIS PLANET.



EXCEPT
MAYBE SINISTER,
RIGHT?

DAMN IT.
LET ME HELP,
SCOTT.



HELP BY LETTING
ME DO WHAT YOU
TRAINED ME TO
DO...TO LEAD.

AND HELP
BY GETTING
CEREBRA
WORKING AGAIN
AS QUICKLY AS
YOU CAN.





KARUMMM



BOTH OF
YOU PLEASE
STAY RIGHT
WHERE YOU
ARE.



YEAH--

--RIGHT.





BAMF

YOU
SEE?

AHHH!

THERE IS
NOTHING UP
HERE...

BAMF

AHHH!

BAMF

...FOR YOU
TO PHASE
INTO...

MIGHT AS
WELL COME
OUT, PROJECTOR...
I CAN SMELL YOU
FROM HERE...

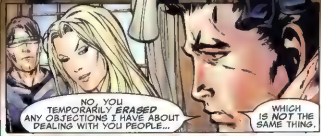
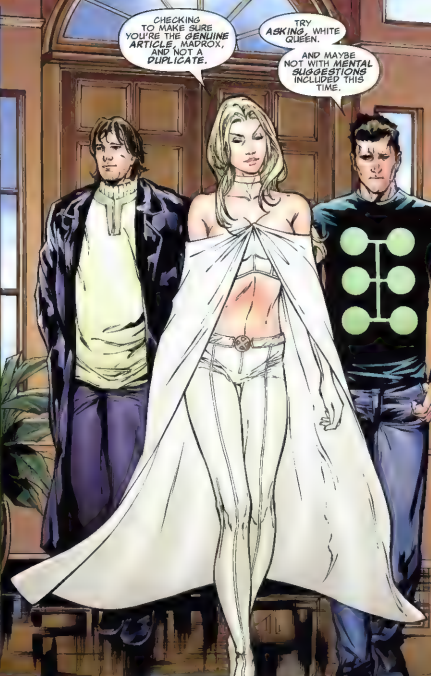
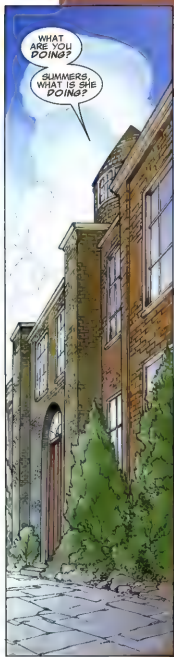
ANYWAY,
WE JUST
WANNA
TALK...

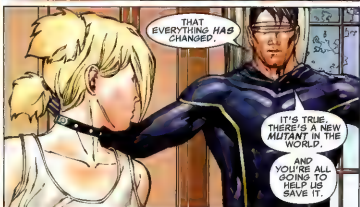
YOU'VE
GOT A FUNNY
WAY OF
GETTING THAT
ACROSS.

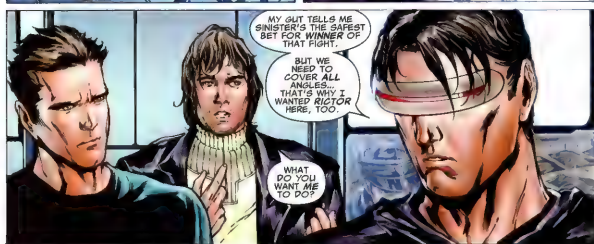
KRAK

WHAT
CAN I SAY?
THESE ARE
COMPLICATED
TIMES, SUB.

SWIKT!









SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WANT TO DO...

I'M LIKING THE SOUND OF THIS ALREADY...

HE WANTS YOU TO INFILTRATE THE PURIFIERS.



HEY--I CAN TALK FOR MYSELF.

SORRY, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. IT MAKES SENSE. THE PURIFIERS' PUBLIC PERSONA MEANS A FRONTAL ASSAULT WOULD BE A NIGHTMARE.

BUT RICTOR'S NOT A MUTANT ANYMORE. SO HE COULD MAYBE SNEAK IN.



YOU WANT TO PUT ME UNDERCOVER WITH THOSE SICK, TWISTED MUTANT-HATERS?

THE PEOPLE WHO PROBABLY KILLED EVERY CHILD IN THAT TOWN?



YES, IS THAT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM?

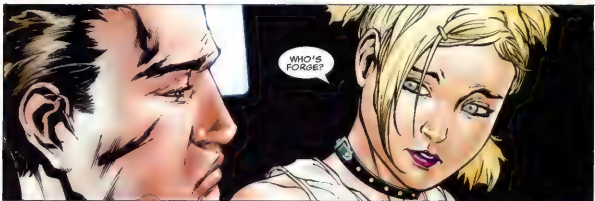
WHAT'S JAMIE'S JOB, THEN?

GOING TO THE SAVAGE LAND TO HAVE LUNCH WITH SAURON?



DO YOU WANNA TELL HIM, LAYLA?

WE'RE GOING TO SEE FORGE...



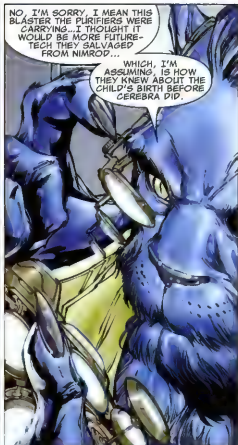
WHO'S FORGE?



--JUST
THOUGHT ENOUGH
TIME HAD PASSED...
THAT I'D PROVEN...
I DON'T KNOW,
SOMETHING...

THIS GETS
STRANGER AND
STRANGER...

I AGREE.



NO, I'M SORRY, I MEAN THIS
BLASTER THE PURIFIERS WERE
CARRYING. I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE MORE FUTURE-
TECH THEY SALVAGED
FROM NIMROD...

WHICH, I'M
ASSUMING, IS HOW
THEY KNEW ABOUT THE
CHILD'S BIRTH BEFORE
CEREBRA DID.



BUT THIS WEAPON...
IT'S NOT FUTURISTIC
IN DESIGN AT ALL. IN FACT,
IT LOOKS KIND
OF FAMILIAR.

WHICH, AS
I SAID...IS STRANGE...
I NEED TO LOOK
THROUGH MY PURIFIER
FILES AGAIN.

I'M SURE
SCOTT WILL GET
TO THE BOTTOM
OF IT.

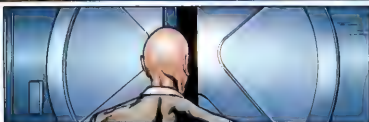


HE WILL,
CHARLES...YOU
TRAINED HIM WELL...
TAKE PRIDE IN
THAT AND LET
HIM LEAD...

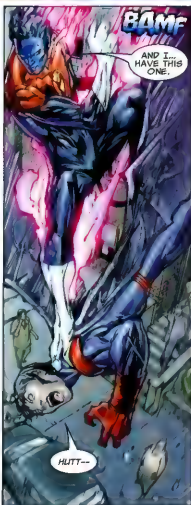
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
ELSE TO TELL
YOU.



I'M GOING
TO GO
CHECK THE
REROUTING...









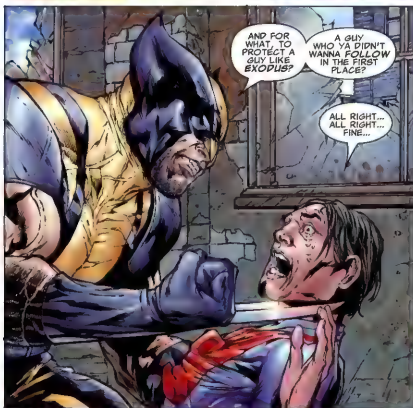
LOOK
OUT
PETE!



UK--



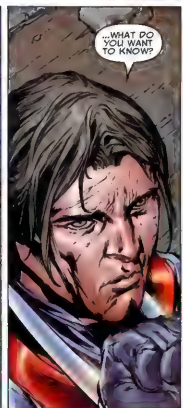
NOW LOOK
AT THAT. YA HURT
YER OWN GUY...
PATHETIC.



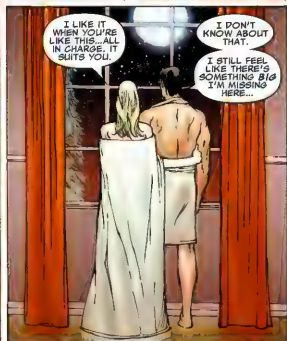
AND FOR
WHAT?
TO PROTECT A
GUY LIKE
EXODUS?

A GUY
WHO YA DIDN'T
WANNA FOLLOW
IN THE FIRST
PLACE?

ALL RIGHT...
ALL RIGHT...
FINE...



...WHAT DO
YOU WANT
TO KNOW?



**SOMEWHERE
IN CANADA.**

"...SOME WILD CARD
WE HAVEN'T EVEN
CONSIDERED."

PREDATOR X MOVES
AT A SPEED FUELED
BY HUNGER.

THE TWO DEAD MUTANTS
IN ALASKA LAST
NIGHT GAVE HIM THE
ENERGY TO MOVE ON...

...BUT THEY WOULD BE A
MORSEL COMPARED TO
THE OTHER ONE--THE NEW
ONE--THAT HE FEELS OUT
THERE SOMEWHERE...

...IN THE
DISTANCE.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN
X-FACTOR #25**

X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER 3



NEXT WEEK

The Purifiers are infiltrated. The X-Men continue their hunt for the Acolytes. And Madrox is asked to make a sacrifice he may come to regret.



VARIANT COVER

The Sequel You've Been Waiting For



ULTIMATE IRON MAN II

**A 4-part limited series continuing
the untold origin of Iron Man!**

**Orson Scott Card • Pasqual Ferry
Variant Cover by Gabriele Dell'otio**

December 2007

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YOUR UNIVERSE

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FURY'S FILES

Discovered in a decommissioned S.H.I.E.L.D. safehouse, below is a list of little known facts about the X-Men that Nick Fury had personally collected to be used or leveraged when necessary.



After being shot by a mutant power neutralizing gun designed by Forge and therefore losing her powers, Storm was granted the power of Thor, given an Uru Hammer and new weather powers by Loki.

Wolverine's claws actually burst out right through his skin, not through any kind of permanent holes. His mutant healing factor heals the wounds instantly.

Psylocke is a natural blonde.

X-23 is named due to her being the 23rd attempt to clone Wolverine and the intact X chromosome that was duplicated to replace the damaged Y one, which resulted in her being female. She is the only successful cloning attempt of Wolverine.

The image inducer Nightcrawler uses to appear human was invented by Tony Stark.

Dazzler temporarily acted as a herald of Galactus, when the world-devourer granted her powers on a cosmic scale so that she could hunt down Terrax, a former herald who had abused his powers.

Scarlet Witch and Angel briefly dated.

In Weird Al's song "White & Nerdy" one of the lines is "I've been browsin' and inspectin', X-Men comics you know I collect 'em." In the music video Al is holding up four X-Men comics: Uncanny X-Men #201, 210, 221 & 268.

Storm's real name, Ororo, means "Beauty."

Over the years, the minds of three different X-Men found themselves trapped in the body of the White Queen — Jean Grey, Storm and Iceman.

Xavier once had a shapeshifter named Changeling assume his identity while he secretly prepared for an alien invasion. When the Changeling died in battle, the X-Men held a funeral for their mentor having no idea that he was actually alive.

Jubilee suffers from dyscalculia; an inability to complete mathematical problems.

Beast and Nightcrawler don't have blue skin, only a fine coat of blue fur.

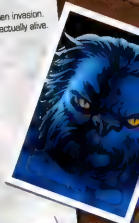
Deadpool was once a bodyguard for Dazzler.

While working as an agent for the C.I.A., Wolverine once saved Spider-Man's parents from Hydra.

Professor X has been crippled (and healed) 4 times:

- 1st — In a fight with Lucifer
- 2nd — Crushed in a fight with the Shadow King
- 3rd — After he got the Techno-Organic Virus
- 4th — Magneto stopped the nanites in his spine from working (After House of M, the Scarlet Witch had cured his spine, and he is now walking)

Storm was originally conceived by Dave Cockrum as "the Black Cat", a character who could transform into a feline creature or a house cat.



PORTFOLIO REVIEW

From the mind of the legendary X-MEN writer, Chris Claremont, comes a book unlike any other. They are a team from every timeline, safeguarding our future. But things have changed. A new leader, new members, new worlds, new adversaries. These are the **NEW EXILES**. Presented here for the first time is a behind-the-scenes look at what went into creating this team from series artist Tom Grummett, as well as hints of what's to come...

NEW EXILES - ROGUE - THE LAMERS

"ROGUE has come from a very different experience from the Rogue we all know and love. Her background is one of wealth, privilege and sophistication, but her powers set her apart... my approach to Rogue is "you can look, but don't touch - or else."



NEW EXILES MISTIQ



"MISTIQ is an alternate-earth version of Mystique: very cultured and Old World charming... Basil Rathbone with superpowers."

EXILES COMMENTS BY TOM GRUMMETT

"SABRETOOTH really came into focus for me when Chris described him as 'the sexy beast'. I just had to run with that."

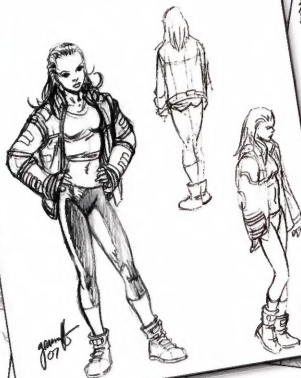
NEW EXILES

SABRETOOTH

- BLACK SHIRT



NEW EXILES:
KITTY PRYDE



"CAT PRYDE is sixteen, smart and spunky... I think of her as the classic version of Kitty."

"MORPH is Morph. You can dress him up any way you like, but he's going to turn into a fire hydrant or something, and boom!...he's back in his cape."

KEEPS "DEFAULTING"
BACK TO THIS!



NEW EXILES #1
JANUARY 2008

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

WRITER MATT FRACTION



MARVEL: Reading *Immortal Iron Fist*, it's clear you and Ed Brubaker are having a blast. What makes this such a fun book for you as a creator?

MATT FRACTION: I think the character, honestly. I hope character is at the root of everything I do, and Danny's is remarkable to say the least. I always sort of felt our first arc was about Danny and the reader, discovering at the same time how exciting and thrilling the Iron Fist actually is—that our first storyline was a chance to celebrate everything that makes him great and hopefully convince other people to fall in love with him at the same time. So really, the answer is the character himself. It's all there, we're just polishing it up and showing it off.

The collaboration is great fun, too. Ed and I constantly trying to out-awesome one another makes it fun, too.

M: Iron Fist is one of those characters no one would've expected to be such a mainstream critical darling. Why do you think he's so irresistible to such a diverse group of people?

MF: Three words, baby: KUNG FU BILLIONAIRE. It shouldn't be rocket science, you know? Reduce Danny Rand down to his three most essential words and you find a great comic book waiting to happen.

M: We've recently learned that Danny Rand can do some pretty cool new things with his power. What's the oddest/funniest new thing Danny can do with the power of the Iron Fist?

MF: He can keep artist David Aja hypnotized into staying on *THE IMMORTAL IRON FIST* for a good long while, when surely he could be drawing almost any book on the market.

M: Why the aversion to shirts from Danny's opponents such as Davos? Do they just realize their costumes could never be as cool?

MF: Super-villains in Danny's world are sick and tired of your uptight nipple oppression, pal. Maybe if button-down squares like you weren't such shirt-fascists, these guys wouldn't have to BE evil? Why are you so afraid of male nipples, huh? You ever

bother to ask yourself that? **OUT OF THE SHIRTS, AND INTO THE STREETS! OUT OF THE SHIRTS, AND INTO THE STREETS! OUT OF THE SHIRTS, AND INTO THE STREETS!**

M: Over in *The Order* we've got quite a damaged group of heroes. This can't end well for all parties involved, can it? I foresee a lot of headaches for Stark...

MF: As time goes on, the grand secret of the Order will be revealed—it's a social experiment, first and foremost. Here's the thing: we're ALL damaged. All of us—real and fictional alike. Stark is just as damaged as Henry Hellrung or Dr. Doom or whomever.

So the question isn't how damaged are the people in the Order and what's gonna happen when they screw up, but rather, we're ALL human, we ALL screw up, and so, for these damaged people, what do they do when given the opportunity to heal themselves by helping others? When given the opportunity to rise, do they take it?

Also, how many billions of things can I get Barry Kitson to draw in a single panel?

M: One of the most fascinating aspects of this book is that our leads are clearly heroes while fighting evil...but outside of their super-heroic identities, there are certainly some concerns about their decisions. Just how far will some of these characters go to right what they perceive as wrongs?

MF: You know, I just wrote a scene between Kate (the PR person) and Pepper Potts, arguing over that same point. I think that's really the very definition of "hero"—when you're willing to walk alone and take grave risks to do the right thing. "Speak your mind, even if your voice trembles," right? In a nutshell, that's what the Order is all about. Rising up and doing right, in the face of near-insurmountable difficulty.

M: You've created most of these characters from scratch (though some like Pepper have been around awhile), meaning they're a blank canvas for you to paint. Is that freedom ever intimidating or just a writer's dream come true?

MF: Boy, a little bit of both, really. It's great to be given the chance to create a brand new super-hero team for the Marvel Universe, and the pride of creation I know Barry and I both feel is incredible beyond belief. To be allowed to sew our little square onto the, uh, Marvel quilt, is just incredible.

M: These guys can only be heroes for one year. What happens if someone doesn't want to stop helping the helpless after one year?

MF: Let me answer your question with a question: do you need a cape and superpowers to help the helpless?

'Nuff Said!

QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS!

IF YOU COULD DATE A MARVEL CHARACTER, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?



The Wasp. At least that way, the stingers would be out where you could see them and could duck.

- J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI - Writer
(Thor, The Twelve, Amazing Spider-Man)



Wow... talk about a creepy question! I mean, you do realize that these are just fictional characters and -- Oh, heck, who am I kidding? Kitty Pryde. Definitely Kitty Pryde!

- MARC SUMERAK - Writer
(Franklin Richards)



I don't really have an answer for this (maybe Jessica Drew-- she's freaky), but I'm dying to know if Bendis said "Luke Cage" or not. Because if he didn't, he's LYING.

- BRIAN REED - Writer
(Captain Marvel, Ms. Marvel, New Avengers: Illuminati)



Luke Cage!

Wait, is this for publication?? I mean Kitty Pryde! Because I like me a nice Jewish girl!

- BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS - (Jewish) Writer
(New & Mighty Avengers, Ultimate Spider-Man)



Anyone BUT Psylocke. A mind reader who can go all ninja on you?

That's just asking for trouble...

- DAN SLOTT - Writer
(Avengers: The Initiative, Amazing Spider-Man)



Everyone who knows me would assume Psylocke, but I'd prefer to date Mary Jane. Sorry, Spidey.

- C.B. CEBULSKI - Writer
(Loners, Marvel Fairy Tales)



Squirrel Girl. 'Nuff Said!

JOE QUESADA -
Marvel Editor-in-Chief, Artist
(Amazing Spider-Man)



Wasp, because she's rich and emotionally damaged.

- FRANK CHO - Artist, Writer
(Mighty Avengers)



Any one that's been drawn by Frank Cho!

- CHRIS YOST - Writer
(New X-Men, X-Force)



Dead Girl. That way, the date could continue if we got hit by a truck on the way to the restaurant.

- FRED VAN LENTE - Writer
(Super-Villain Team-Up, Incredible Hulk)



Galactus. I bet he has funny stories.

- MATT FRACTION - Writer
(The Order, Punisher War Journal, The Immortal Iron Fist)



Clea -- sorry, Dr. Strange! We'd be going out on dates in wacky dimensions with floating fangs and eyes and clocks...

- JEFF PARKER - Writer
(X-Men: First Class)



Mystique... Because then I could "date" anyone I wanted. :)

CRAIG KYLE - Writer
(New X-Men)

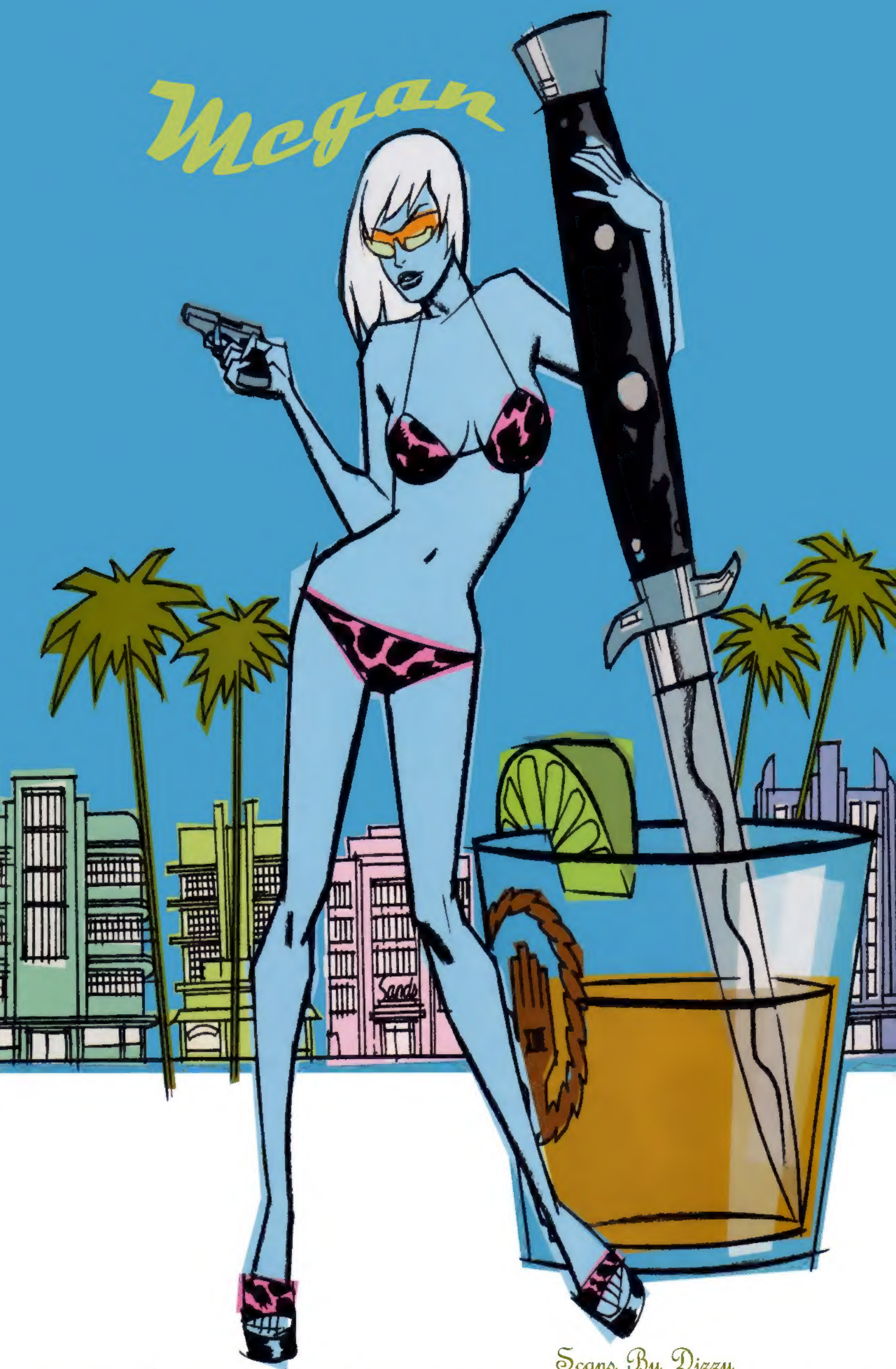


Gambit. I know he's dirty hot, which is usually not what I go for (my boyfriend looks JUST like Peter Parker from Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane), but I've loved him since I was teeny-tiny and watching the old X-Men cartoons. And the best part would be that he could actually touch ME! >:)

CHRISTINA STRAIN - Colorist
(World War Hulk, Runaways)

NOW YOU KNOW!

Megan



Scans By Dizzy

THE MINUTEMEN